provided telephone connections; and

(d) if so, when; if not, when they are likely to be provided telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The date of registration covered under OYT general category in Kidwai Bhawan Exchange, Delhi is 25.2.83, as on 31.10.1986.

(b) There are 15 cases in all in OYT category in Kidwai Bhawan exchange where telephones could not be provided although the registration dates have matured. These comprise of:—

(1) Incomplete cases where some documents were awaited from the subscribers;

(2) Registrations transferred from other exchange areas on account of change of address by the subscribers; and

(3) On commissioning of 331 exchange, area served by Old Cannaught Place exchange (Code 4), Pragati Maidan exchange (Code 804) and part of Janpath exchange (Code 31, 32, 34, and 35), Rajpath exchange (Code 38) and Delhi Gate (Code 26 and 27) were transferred. Accordingly the waiting list of 331 exchange was recast. In the work of this magnitude some of the cases have been inadvertantly left out.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Such cases are treated as committed ones and telephone connections in these cases will be provided after the expansion of Kidwai Bhawan Exchange which is expected to materialise during 1987-88.

Study into Pollution by Industries

1660. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a study team to study the danger of pollution caused by industries;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action has so far been taken in respect of industries causing pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: (a) and (b) Surveys of selected chemical and petrochemical units have been conducted through expert panels, for envolving guidelines and recommendations on safety measures in such units. Expert teams have also been set up in several States for recommending measures for safety in the industrial units handling hazardous chemicals.

(c) 705 polluting industries have been prosecuted in various States/Union Territories. So far, out of 4054 polluting industries 2076 have installed pollution control devices.

Prevention against likely Ecological Disaster

1661. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the warning of some eminent environmentalists in the country that India may face an ecological disaster by the end of this century if prompt corrective measures are not taken;

(b) whether it is a fact that the forest area in the country comes down every year and if so, to what extent and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a large quantity of fertile soil is washed away every year due to floods and whether India, especially the Himalayas are threatened to become deserts by the beginning of the 21st Century; and